

Claims

1. A jackpot wagering system, comprising:
 - a) a player terminal operable by a player to place a wager on a turn of any one of a number of different games of chance each having a corresponding jackpot cycle, the wager having a maximum limit;
 - b) an accumulation facility responsive to placement of the wager to accumulate a portion thereof in an accumulation account; and
 - c) a random event generator corresponding to each one of the number of different games of chance, the random event generator being activatable to randomly select an outcome of the corresponding game of chance being played from a set of possible outcomes that include a favourable outcome, the occurrence of which causing the player to win a determinable portion of the contents of the accumulation account characterised in that
 - the system includes a determination facility responsive to placement of the wager to determine, prior to activation of the random event generator, the determinable portion of the contents of the accumulation account as a function of at least one of:
 - a) a size of the wager relative to the maximum limit thereof;
 - b) a playing currency of the wager where the wager is denominated in any one of a number of different permissible playing currencies; and
 - c) the relative jackpot cycles of the number of different games of chance.
2. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 1 in which the player terminal is operable by the player to place a wager on a turn of any one of a plurality of different games of chance each having a corresponding maximum limit for the wager.
3. A jackpot wagering system as claimed claim 1 in which the contents of the accumulation account are denominated in a base currency which is stronger than or equal to a strongest one of the number of different permissible playing currencies.

PCY/1203/01729 . 11122001

006/011

14/12 '04 TUE 16:11 FAX +27 11 6899001

20

Best Available Copy

4. A jackpot wagering systems as claimed in claim 3 in which the base currency is a strongest one of the permissible playing currencies.

5. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 4 in which the maximum limit of the wager is denominated in the base currency.

6. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 5 that includes a conversion facility instructable to convert a wager made in any one of the different permissible playing currencies to an equivalent wager in the base currency, the conversion facility including a stored spot exchange rate from each one of the different permissible playing currencies to the base currency, the stored spot exchange rates being updatable from time to time.

7. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 6 in which the wager is denominated as an integral number of units or an integral number of fractional units of one of the number of different permissible playing currencies.

8. A jackpot-wagering system as claimed in claim 7 in which the determination facility determines the portion of the contents of the accumulation account that can be won by the player upon the occurrence of the favourable outcome as a ratio of the size of the wager to the maximum limit thereof.

9. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 8 in which the determination facility determines the size of the wager as a function of a particular permissible playing currency in which the wager is denominated and a corresponding denomination of the units or fractional units of that playing currency.

10. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 9 in which the determination facility determines the portion of the contents of the

accumulation account that can be won by the player upon the occurrence of the favourable outcome as a function of the stored spot exchange rate between the permissible playing currency in which the wager is denominated and the base currency.

5

11.A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 7 in which the determination facility determines the portion of the contents of the accumulation account that can be won by the player upon the occurrence of a favourable outcome as a function of at least the size of the wager, the maximum limit thereof, and the jackpot cycle of the game of chance being played.

10

15

12.A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 11 in which the function by which the determination facility determines the portion of the contents of the accumulation account that can be won by the player upon the occurrence of a favourable outcome is a product of a ratio of the size of the wager to the maximum limit thereof, and a relative size of the jackpot cycle of the game of chance being played.

20

13.A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 12 in which the relative size of the jackpot cycle of the game being played is a ratio of the jackpot cycle of the game being played to the greatest jackpot cycle of any one of the number of different games of chance.

25

14.A jackpot wagering system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which the set of possible outcomes game of chance being played includes a plurality of different partially favourable outcomes, each partially favourable outcome causing the player to win a determinable portion of the contents of the accumulation account that is proportionally reduced.

30

15.A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 14 in which the reduction in response to the occurrence of a partially favourable

Best Available Copy

22

outcome of the game of chance being played is proportional to the probability of occurrence of the corresponding outcome.

5 16. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 1 in which the portion of the wager accumulated in the accumulation account by the accumulation facility is a predetermined percentage of the wager, preferably about three percent.

10 17. A method for jackpot wagering, comprising the steps of:
placing a wager on a turn of any one of a number of different games of chance each having a corresponding jackpot cycle, the wager having a maximum limit;
accumulating a portion of the wager in an accumulation account; and
15 randomly selecting an outcome of the game of chance being played from a set of possible outcomes that include a favourable outcome, the occurrence of which causing the player to win a determinable portion of the contents of the accumulation account characterised in that
the method includes a step of determining, prior to randomly selecting
20 the outcome of the game of chance being played, the determinable portion of the contents of the accumulation account as a function of at least one of:
a) a size of the wager relative to the maximum limit thereof;
b) a playing currency of the wager where the wager is denominated in
25 any one of a number of different permissible playing currencies; and
c) the relative jackpot cycles of the number of different games of chance.

30 18. A method as claimed in claim 17 which includes a further step of placing a wager on a turn of any one of a plurality of different games of chance, each having a corresponding maximum limit for the wager.

19. A method as claimed in claim 18 in which the contents of the accumulation account are denominated in a base currency which is

23

stronger than or equal to a strongest one of the different permissible playing currencies.

5 20. A method as claimed in claim 19 in which the base currency is a strongest one of the permissible playing currencies.

21. A method as claimed in claim 20 in which the maximum limit of the wager is denominated in the base currency.

10 22. A method as claimed in claim 21 in which a wager from any one of the different permissible playing currencies is converted to an equivalent wager in the base currency, a stored spot exchange rate being provided from any one of the permissible playing currencies to the base currency, the stored spot exchange rates being updatable from time to time.

15

23. A method as claimed in claim 22 in which the wager is denominated as an integral number of units or an integral number of fractional units of one of the permissible playing currencies

20

24. A method as claimed in claim 23 in which the portion of the contents of the accumulation account that can be won by the player upon the occurrence of the favourable outcome is determined as a ratio of the size of the wager to the maximum limit thereof.

25

25. A method as claimed in claim 24 in which the size of the wager is determined as a function of a particular permissible playing currency in which the wager is denominated and a corresponding denomination of the of units or fractional units of that playing currency.

30

26. A method as claimed in claim 25 in which the portion of the contents of the accumulation account that can be won by the player upon the occurrence of the favourable outcome is determined as a function of

Best Available Copy

24

the stored spot exchange rate between the permissible playing currency in which the wager is denominated and the base currency.

- 5 27. A method as claimed in claim 26 in which the portion of the contents of the accumulation account that can be won by the player upon the occurrence of the favourable outcome is determined as a function of at least the size of the wager, a maximum limit thereof, and a jackpot cycle of the selected game of chance.
- 10 28. A method as claimed in claim 27 in which the portion of the contents of the accumulation account that can be won by the player is upon the occurrence of the favourable outcome is determined as a product of a ratio of the size of the wager to the maximum limit thereof, and a relative size of the jackpot cycle of the game of chance being played.
- 15 29. A method as claimed in claim 28 in which the relative size of the jackpot cycle of the game being played is a ratio of the jackpot cycle of the game being played to the greatest jackpot cycle of any one of the number of different games of chance.
- 20 30. A method as claimed in any one of claims 17 to 29 that includes the step of establishing a plurality of different partially favourable outcomes for the game of chance being played, each partially favourable outcome causing the portion of the contents of the accumulation account that can be won by the player to be proportionally reduced.
- 25 31. A method as claimed in claim 30 in which the reduction of the contents of the accumulation account that can be won by the player in response to the occurrence of a partially favourable outcome of the game of chance is proportional to the probability of occurrence of the corresponding outcome.
- 30

PCT/IB 03/04736

IPEA/US 14 DEC 2004

PCT/IB 03/04736 11122004

011/011

14/12 '04 TUE 18:12 FAX +27 11 6698001

25

32. A method as claimed in claim 17 in which the portion of the wager accumulated in the accumulation account is a predetermined percentage of the wager, preferably about three percent.

Best Available Copy